Andhra Pradesh.

A amount of Rs. 65 crores was agreed to by the Planning Commission as an additional Central Assistance for the 'Contingency Plan' in order to accelerate development of tribal areas affected by the extremist activities. The Special Action Plan has been prepared for Rs. 65 crores. The strategy for development of remote and interior areas is to open out the areas by building roads, stepping up economic activities by providing sources of irrigation, upgradation of skills and introduction of self-employment schemes The major thrust of the development plan has been in laying arterial roads, minor irrigation and drinking water supply, which among themselves account for substantial amount out of the total outlay provided for the Action Plan.

Maharashtra

The State Government has decided to take up a Special Action Plan for certain backward talukas of Chandrapur District the whole of Gadchiroli Districts, Akkalkuwa and Dhadgaon talukas Dhule District and Kinwat taluka of Nanded District Additional outlays have been provided since the last year of the Seventh Pan Particularly for such programmes as the development of roads, water supply, public health, nutrition and education for these talukas. For the year 1991-92 Rs. 8 crores have been provided for this programme, and Rs. 50 crores for the Eighth Plan. In the Special Action Plan, emphasis has been laid on providing better facilities for communication (through road network), electrification, education, health, employment, irrigation, nutrition, etc. The State Government has also mentioned that these programmes are to be funded primarily from the normal provisions available for the district, like that of outlays under District Plan, backlog, State pool and central budget. Additional funds however, will be available wherever necessary for the successful completion of the programmes included under Special Action Plan.

Madhya Pradesh

The entire District of Bastar is being covered under Tribal-Sub-Plan. The Plan assigns high priority to development of roads, irrigation, horticulture, medical facilities and provision of drinking water. The Plan is being implemented as part of Tribal Sub-Plan of the State.

Government's interference in electronic Media

1431 SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the Prasar Bharati Bill was passed Government have clamped strict control on the electronic media, as manifest in terminating the HTV contract for organising and presenting the Khula Manch programme on TV and deputing a new party to manage the same; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such arbitrary interference of Government in the affairs of the media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has engaged M/s. HTV as Consultant for production of programme "Khula Manch". After three episodes, Doordarshan engaged M/s PTI TV as consultant for three other episodes to bring variety to the programme.

Non-aligned film and photo pool service

1432. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India proposed a plan for a non-aligned film and photo pool service to enlarge cooperation in the field of information, at the non-aligned Information and Broadcasting Ministers' conference held at Havana in September, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what was the consensus of the conference in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Setting up of a Non-aligned Film Pool as also a Non-aligned Photo-Pool have been proposed by India during the Third Conference of Ministers for Information of the Non-aligned Countries held at Havana in September, 1990. Modalities of the proposal are being worked out.

(c) The Indian proposals were, *prima facie*, acceptable to the participating countries

Self-immolations against Mandal Commission recommendations

1433 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the self-immolation and suicide bids in protest against the Government's reservation policy since the decision on the Mandal Commission was announced on August 7, 1990;

(b) the number of persons who died; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The following information has been received so far:

	Self-Immolation		Suicides	
	Bids	Deaths	Bids	Deaths
Gujarat	13		1	
Punjab	6	6	5	5
Delhi	17	10	1	1

(c) The Government order regarding reservation in jobs to socially and educationally backward classes has been challenged in the court of law. The matter is pending before the Supreme Court The Court has directed that no steps to implement the said Government Order shall be taken till the pendency of the hearing, excepting identification of the Castes to be benefited.

Pak attack in Keran sub-section of Jammu and Kashmir

1434. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani forces resorted to unprovoked attack with mortar and heavy artillery in the Keran sub-sector in Jammu and Kashmir on October, 4, 1990 and that the